

## THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1887.

## SAMUEL WILLOUGHBY DUFFIELD.

BORN in Brooklyn, L. I., Sept. 24, 1843.  
DIED at Bloomfield, N. J., May 12, 1887.  
DISEASED.

These few words on the plate of a casket, lying in state in Westminster Church last Sunday, stated simply the beginning and the end of a noble life, adding, in a wonderfully expressive Latin word—*dilectissimus*—that the occupant was "most tenderly beloved." That was the word which he had not long before selected in memory of his cousin, young Edward Pierpont, and than which none could be more appropriate for himself; for, although his talents commanded admiration; and his character respect; his loving disposition, kind words and generous heart had endeared him to the whole circle of his acquaintance, and with peculiar tenderness to those who knew him intimately the flag on the Truck House, lowered to half-mast on Thursday afternoon, was an outward mark of the deep sorrow which filled the hearts of the firemen for their beloved chaplain; while signs of grief were apparent everywhere throughout the town, with whose interests, although he was not a native, he had become closely identified.

When four years of age, he came to Bloomfield with his father, who was pastor of the First Presbyterian church from 1847 to 1852.

He always remembered his playmates and schoolmates, as well as other friends of those days, and kept up his acquaintance with them by visits and correspondence, until he came to live among them, as pastor of Westminster church. From here his father went to Philadelphia, and while there Samuel united with the church at the age of thirteen. It was not during any season of excitement, and speaking of it he used to say, "I stood all alone." He was graduated from Yale college in 1863; taught one year in the High school at Adrian, Michigan; studied theology with his grandfather and father, and was licensed to preach by the Knox Presbytery of Illinois, in April, 1866.

For one season he took charge of the Moseley Mission, Chicago; then came to New York, and attended the Union Theological Seminary. He was for three years pastor of the Kensington Presbyterian church, Philadelphia.

In 1870 he accepted a call to the Claremont Presbyterian church, Bergen, Jersey City, N. J. In the fall of 1871 he removed to Ann Arbor, Michigan, accepting the pastorate of the First Presbyterian church in that place. Three years afterward he became pastor of the Eighth Presbyterian Church of Chicago. Two years after this he removed to Auburn, N. Y., where he was called to the Central Presbyterian Church, but was not installed. In 1878 he became pastor of the Second Church of Altoona, Pa. In January, 1881, he assumed the pastorate of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Bloomfield, which he held until his death.

Mr. Duffield was a remarkably well rounded man. In physique he was a young giant. Existence seemed a perfect joy to him. Fond of active sports, quick in movement, almost incapable of fatigue, it seemed impossible that his fine frame could succumb to disease. And when his trial did come, his wonderfully strong constitution resisted the attack for a whole year, while an ordinary man would have sunk under it almost immediately.

Intellectually, his talent almost amounted to genius. His literary taste developed early. Before he was ten years old he had taken his father's Chaucer and by the aid of the glossary and his own appreciation, had read it through with great delight. His field of reading was broad and varied; and his memory of what he read was amazing.

He loved poetry, and was himself no mean poet. E. C. Steadman, in his "American Poets and Poetry," enrolls him among American Poets, especially among "those who have made the American School of translators somewhat eminent"; also "among the well-known writers of lyrical verse." His article in the Sunday School Times of Feb. 9, 1884, proving that Rahab was the author of the celebrated Latin hymn, "Veni, Creator Spiritus," is an interesting illustration of his familiarity with this part of the field of literature. He left a work on "Latin Hymns and Hymn Writers" almost ready for the press. His material was in such an advanced state that it can be finished and published by the competent hand into which he placed it before his death.

His "English Hymns and Hymn Writers," which he was preparing for a second edition just before the beginning of his last illness, has attained a wide celebrity. It is a remarkable

monument of research, literary labor, an critical judgment. Every lover of English Hymns must find great delight in its study. The frequent letters in its praise which he received during the year of his suffering, brought him much comfort, and eased many a pain.

But he felt that the literary work of a preacher should be chiefly given to his sermons, and these he studied and prepared with great care. In delivery he did not confine himself to the manuscript, but having filled his mind and heart with the subject, he would often break away from what he had written, and give himself up enthusiastically to his theme, would carry his hearers along with him in a flood of eloquence. It was not uncommon for him at the close of his sermon to shut the book, step to the side of his desk, and begin in a conversational tone to relate some incident, peculiarly suited to illustrate the whole subject. Then applying it with his usual eloquence and earnestness he left on the minds of his hearers an impression by which long afterward they could recall the lesson taught.

None of this was done for intellectual or literary effect; all was subordinated to the great work of teaching the truth; especially the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. Christ was the centre of his theology and preaching. The last time he ever preached was in his own church, exactly one year before the Sunday on which his funeral was held in the same place. The text of his last sermon was, "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

He seldom published a sermon, and but few of his addresses; one of the latter has attracted considerable attention; it was delivered at the Summer School of Christian Philosophy in Asbury Park in 1885, and was entitled, "Jesus Christ as the Representative Human Redeemer, in the Light of Modern Science."

Mr. Duffield always took an active part in the public interests of the town. Besides much general work which he did, as a member of the Village Improvement Association, he labored hard to establish a public library and reading-room. He was from the beginning a Director of the Bloomfield Publishing Company, and one of the original editors of THE CITIZEN. To the long and successful experience that he brought to this work, and to the earnestness and amount of labor with which in connection with his co-editors he continued it, is largely due the success that their journal soon attained. He took a lawful pride in his chaplaincy in the fire company, whose members he loved to meet, and to whom he preached a sermon every year. Their love for their Chaplain was shown by their constant inquiries about him during his illness, by their presence in a body at the funeral services and by their tender attention to his beloved remains, over which they placed a guard of honor for the forty eight hours during which he lay in state in Westminster Church.

One of the great trials of his sick bed was that he could not labor in the Young Men's Christian Association which has lately been established in the town. After the last prayer-meeting that he ever attended, while the members were lingering in the room talking with him and one another, he put his arms affectionately on the shoulders of two young men and said, "Now, my book is finished and I am ready for fresh work. I was never in better health in my life, and I am going to take hold of the Young Men's Christian Association. I know it means work; but you may depend upon me for any help you need." He often spoke of the Association and his longing to help it; but he had faith that the Lord's work in this, as well as in other lines, could be carried on without him.

He was a fearless and relentless foe to the rum traffic, and fought the saloon in every practicable way. He was not so chimerical that he could not favor high license, taxation, local option, or any other means that would lessen the demon's power; but he looked forward to the time when the accursed system would be overthrown. In addition to his pastoral work, which was never neglected, he was constantly devising and carrying out plans for the mental and social growth of his people. Few know how much time and labor he spent on the lectures which he so frequently delivered before the Young People's Society of his congregation, and which attracted so much attention.

The disease that caused Mr. Duffield's death was Mitral regurgitant disease of the heart, in common language, leakage of the valves of the heart. The immediate cause was heart failure; failure to act, from weakness. The disease had probably existed for a long time in an undeveloped form, and was hastened by his too active life. It is not known that any unusual effort, straining or injury

had anything to do with the result. His mind was clear to the last; any apparent weakness was caused by the general weakness of his system.

The tributes of love and respect which are recorded in other columns of THE CITIZEN to-day, make it unnecessary to extend this notice. Not only do Bloomfield and a large circle of relatives and friends elsewhere mourn his early passing away; but great numbers throughout the land feel that a Standard Bearer in Christ's army has fallen.

No! not fallen; he has been promoted.

**Rev. Dr. Berry's Resignation.**  
The Rev. J. Romaine Berry, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Montclair, after the morning service last Sunday, presented his resignation, having on that day completed the seventeenth year of his pastorate of that church. The resignation was received with great surprise by a majority of the congregation; but some few of the members knew of the pastor's decision several days before. A special meeting of the congregation has been called to take action upon the resignation, and it is believed that it will be accepted, although Dr. Berry has many admirers in the congregation and the respect and esteem of the entire community. There are many rumors as to the cause of the resignation, and it has been reported that he was requested to resign. This, however, is authoritatively denied. Dr. Berry, when asked the reason, evaded a direct reply. It is generally understood, however, that it is the result of the trouble of two years ago, which caused a split in the church and the withdrawal of twenty-five families and the organization of the new Trinity Presbyterian church. At that time the Trustees, finding that the membership of the church was not growing, but, on the contrary, that the families were withdrawing and attending other churches, decided that a change in the pastor was needed. They adopted a resolution expressive of their views, and when this passed through the hands of the Session to the pastor, he arranged the Trustees, personally from the pulpit. This resulted in the split in the church. Since that time, it is said, the feeling has grown that a change in the pastorate would be beneficial to the church, and that Dr. Berry has recognized this feeling.

**Y. M. C. A. Notes.**  
The Association has given a call, which has been accepted, to Mr. S. L. Harter, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. to become its General Secretary. The following clipping from the Wilkes-Barre *Newsdealer* will give some idea of the gentleman to whom this important office has been committed:  
S. L. Harter, of Berwick, who has been employed in THE NEWS-DEALER office for nearly two years, and who has been foremost of our job printing department for more than one year, has tendered his resignation, which is to take effect May 21st. He has already accepted the position of secretary for the Y. M. C. A. at Bloomfield, N. J., and expects to enter upon his new duties on June 1. His many friends in Wilkes-Barre are more than sorry to part with him, and he will be greatly missed in all circles, especially in Y. M. C. A. church and literary circles, in which he has been a bright and shining leader for nearly two years. His hundreds of friends, however, wish him the best of success in his new field, and hope he will not forget old friends.  
What is Wilkes-Barre's loss is Bloomfield's gain. He has been a valuable, trusted employee, one who was ever to be found at his post and always willing to work, and a general favorite with all. THE NEWS-DEALER extends its best wishes.

The death of Rev. S. W. Duffield is sincerely mourned by the members of the Y. M. C. A. of Bloomfield. He was among the first and warmest friends of the Association, and it was owing largely to his kind words of encouragement that the movement was originated. Had his life been spared we had too promise from him of his hearty co-operation and unqualified support in the months and years to come.

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room at the entrance of the cemetery grounds on

Monday the 6th day of June, 1887, at 4:30

o'clock P. M.

THOS. C. DODD,

Secretary.

Bloomfield, May 20th, 1887.

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